



## WILL COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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August 29, 2000

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Action Plan (4503F)  
C/o Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Action Plan Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Action Plan. We have had the opportunity to review the report and are concerned with the direction this plan is heading.

The plan does not offer or contain any cost benefit analysis. It is our understanding that the legislation created to provide for this plan to be developed requires the President and chief executive officers of the states to submit a plan that addresses social & economic costs & benefits.

The second area of concern is the plan calls for restoring floodplain wetlands. This would result in the loss of some prime farmland and could have a direct effect on how levee districts function.

Another area of concern within the plan is where it indicates the state will adopt water quality standards for nutrients. In order for this to take place regulator methods for achieving these standards would be necessary and this is a major concern to our area producers.

There also seems to be a lack of consideration to other options. Flow management is a prime example, which we feel needs to be researched & studied. This references point number nine of the plan.

Another concern we have is the fast track this plan seems to be on despite the number of unanswered questions from the scientific community and the need for additional time to consider the proposed solutions.

Because of the above-mentioned items we do not feel any numeric goals for reduction of nitrogen loadings should be used. Besides the effects of nitrate reduction goals on agriculture are not known.



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If you should have any questions please feel free to call me at 815-727-4811. Again thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this action plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Davidson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jerry Davidson, President  
Will County Farm Bureau